



Photo courtesy of International Association of Firefighters

Join us in moving science to solutions for...

Emergency Preparedness





Photo courtesy of International Association of Firefighters

The NIOSH Research to Practice (r2p) program seeks partners for improving workplace safety and health. The r2p program joins NIOSH researchers and outside partners throughout the research process—from identifying the problem to implementing effective solutions. Do you want to make a positive impact for workers? Contact the r2p program to find out how, working together, we can make an impact.

nioshr2p@cdc.gov

Partnerships to Protect Emergency Responders

Partnership makes a difference . . . here is one example

■ ■ ■ Challenge

Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians face many hazards on the job, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Effective personal protective equipment and strict safety standards are critical to ensure the health and safety of emergency responders.

■ ■ ■ Approach

Stakeholders from government, manufacturing and emergency response fields joined NIOSH to establish new respirator standards for CBRN hazards. They established performance requirements and identified concerns with the existing equipment development process, such as policy, manufacturing and personnel issues. This input allowed researchers to develop practical standards to protect workers from CBRN threats.

■ ■ ■ Impact

This group effort resulted in the first CBRN standards for respirators. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adopted the new standards for all equipment purchased by DHS grant funds. The National Fire Protection Association also endorsed these standards. Approximately 7% of all on-duty career firefighters had CBRN respirators available or on order by December 2004. Additionally, six major equipment manufacturers have received approvals, and sixteen retrofit kits have also been approved.



Here are just a few of the businesses, organizations, labor groups,
and research centers that have partnered with NIOSH.

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
American Association of Poison Control Centers
American Chemistry Council Diisocyanates Panel
American College of Medical Toxicology
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Medical Response
American Society of Safety Engineers
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Center for Business and Public Policy –
Georgetown University
Commonwealth of PA Bureau of Deep Mine Safety
Dynamic Systems
Electric Power Research Institute
EPA Office of Research and Development
FEMCO
Finnish Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
General Electric Energy and Resource Systems
General Motors United Auto Workers
Highmark, Inc.
Joy Mining Machinery
Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Center for Health Statistics
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
National Energy Technology Lab (DOE)
National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences (NIEHS)

National Institute of Industrial Health
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Occupational
and Environmental Health
National Institute on Aging
NIEHS–National Toxicology Program
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Employment Standards Administration –
Office of Workers Compensation Program
Phoenix Firefighter Department
RM Wilson
Sandia Corporation (DOE)
Scag Power Equipment
SIRTI
SkyJack Inc.
Springfield Pike Mine
State of Alaska
University of Connecticut
University of Connecticut Health Center
Veterans Health Administration
West Virginia University
Yale University

► E-mail nioshr2p@cdc.gov to find out
how you can add yourself to this list.
Join us in moving science to solutions!

Safer • Healthier • People

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2005-157